

Application No. 10/617,681

REMARKS

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The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 56-65 remain pending.

Claims 56-61 and 63-64 were finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Walberg et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,233,666 (Walberg) in view of the admitted prior art set forth in the present specification. In the Reply filed July 10, 2006, the Applicants traversed, noting that independent method claim 56 requires a first group of spindle motors to be supplied with current initially, followed by supplying current to additionally start up one or more spindle motors, and that independent system claim 58 recites a power supply that supplies current to start up a first group of spindle motors initially, and then supplies current to start up one or more spindle motor. The Applicants incorporate the remarks of that Reply by reference.

Responding to the Applicants' remarks, the Examiner issued an Advisory Action on July 19, 2006, asserting that the remarks did not place the application in condition for allowance because the advantages cited by the Applicants are not recited in the finally-rejected claims, and further asserting that the admitted prior art discloses to start up a group of spindle motors. Respectfully, the Applicants again traverse as follows.

Concerning the assertion that the advantages are not recited in the claims, the Applicants note that the advantages flow from the steps and structure of the claims as finally rejected, such that adding the advantages would not positively limit

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the claims. During an informal telephone discussion of this matter, the Examiner indicated that she would prefer to see language respecting the advantages to be actually set forth in the claims. Accordingly, the Applicants have amended claims 56 and 58 to provide such a recitation.

Concerning the application of Walberg and the admitted prior art, the Applicants assert that Walberg teaches the start-up of motors one-by-one and does not teach to turn on one "group" at a time wherein the first group has more than one disk drive. In this regard, method claim 56 requires the first group to be started up initially to have "more than one spindle motor and less than all of said spindle motors." Similarly, system claim 58 requires the first group of spindle motors started up initially to have "more than one spindle motor and less than all of said spindle motors." In each claim, following the start-up of the first group of spindle motors currently supplied to start up one or more of the remaining spindle motors other than those started up initially. Thus, Walberg is distinguished.

Similarly, although the admitted prior art teaches starting up plural groups of motors, each group has its own power supply. The claims, on the other hand, require the current to start up the first group and the current to additionally start up one or more spindle motors, to be supplied from the same power supply. Furthermore, the admitted prior art does not teach that the groups are started up at different times, but even if one were to interpret the admitted prior art in this way, the disks within a group (that is, supplied with current from the same power supply) are started up at the same time. Thus, even in combination with Walberg, the admitted

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prior art does not teach to supply current from a power supply to start up a first group of spindle motors, the first group being more than one and less than all of the spindle motors, followed by supplying current from the same power supply that supplied current to the first group, to additionally start up one or more of the spindle motors other than the first group of the spindle motors started up initially.

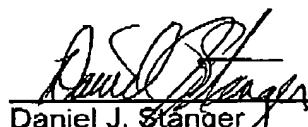
The Applicants request an office interview with the Examiner to further discuss the amended claims and application of the prior art at a mutually convenient time to be determined in the very near future.

In the meantime, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger, Malur & Brundidge, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing attorney docket no. TMI-5004-08).

Respectfully submitted,

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